

From: [Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC](#)
To: [Lilley, Bliss](#);
cc: [Collins, Carly](#);
Subject: FW: CapX2020 project
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:32:48 AM
Attachments: [Microsoft Word - Document2.pdf](#)

-----Original Message-----

From: horsefly@integra.net [<mailto:horsefly@integra.net>]
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 11:28 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX2020 project

I-102-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

June 29, 2009

To: Ms. Stephanie Strength

Re: CAPX2020 Project

Dear Ms. Strength,

It was with very great concern that I learned of the proposal regarding 57th Street in Webster, MN (also known as the "Alternate Route" or "Route B") as an avenue for the CAPX 2020 Brookings to Hampton project.

Not only is the area in question a haven for outdoor enthusiasts and children, it is also valuable cropland, and is abundant in wildlife and waterfowl. There are many established wetlands, wooded habitats, connected creeks and waterways within the corridor, as well as many habitat restoration and waterway resource programs in place and underway by local landowners. The area's diverse ecosystems and natural resources are an important investment for all current and future residents of Webster Township and beyond, and to cut through this area with transmission lines is horrific and most definitely unwelcome.

The voting public spoke out strongly in regard to securing and protecting open spaces for future generations, and adopted the Scott and Rice County comprehensive plan with these tenants. Routing through rural and open spaces is contrary to that goal, and although it may offer less resistance due to a lower population, all citizens will feel the repercussions and loss, whether rural or suburban.

In addition to the loss of natural habitat and quality of life, I am also very vehemently opposed to line, as it will have a devastating effect on landowner property values. No "average easement" payment can make up for the personal and financial loss to homeowners, farmers and residents. All of this, coupled with the very close proximity of the Sky Harbor Airpark, and the frequent presence of low flying small aircraft and helicopters, makes the site especially unsuitable and unsafe.

I sincerely hope that you will eliminate the option of 57th Street in Webster, also known as "Alternate" or "Route B", and focus the lines in more suitable areas - preferably underground, near existing high capacity power lines and/or along major corridors – like interstate highways.

I also sincerely hope that you will pay very close attention to the strong voices that argue that the lines are not even needed, and that the impact on health and the environment are much more substantial and valuable than previously granted.

With Respect,

Michael and Anastasia Balfany

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